

WEEKLY REPORT



09/05/2026

SENATE APPROVES IMPORT TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN DRUGS

The Senate approved Provisional Measure 1,357/2026, which eliminates the federal import tax on international purchases of up to US\$ 50. Beyond the changes affecting small international shipments, the measure includes a provision of particular relevance to healthcare: an import tax exemption for medicines without a similar product available in Brazil when intended for the treatment of rare or neglected diseases. The measure also reduces the import tax rate from 60% to 30% for international purchases valued between US\$ 50 and US\$ 3,000 and establishes new rules to combat fraud, including the undervaluation and artificial splitting of shipments, as well as the sale of illegal products. The inclusion of the medicine exemption could facilitate access to treatments not available in the Brazilian market, particularly for patients with conditions that have limited therapeutic alternatives. [Read more.](#)

END OF ICMS EXEMPTION COULD ADD R\$ 9.2 BILLION TO HEALTHCARE COSTS

The expiration of an ICMS tax exemption for around 200 healthcare products could add R\$ 9.2 billion to Brazil's annual healthcare costs from 2027, according to a study by the Brazilian Alliance of Innovative Health Industries (ABIIS). The current exemption, established under ICMS Agreement 01/99, is valid until December 31, 2026. The products covered include catheters, hemodialysis equipment, sutures, pacemakers, prostheses, stents and heart valves. The study estimates that the end of the exemption could increase prices by up to 23.7%, with approximately R\$ 4.7 billion of the projected impact falling on the public sector, including the Unified Health System (SUS). ABIIS is advocating for the exemption to be extended until 2032, while discussions with state authorities and the National Council for Financial Policy (Confaz) remain ongoing. [Read more.](#)

FIRST CONFIDENTIAL DRUG PRICING AGREEMENT EXPECTED IN SEPTEMBER, SAYS PADILHA

Health Minister Alexandre Padilha said Brazil's first agreement involving confidential drug pricing is expected to be finalized in September. The measure is part of a new strategy to negotiate the prices of medicines and other health technologies for the Unified Health System (SUS). The model is expected to allow the government to negotiate prices below publicly disclosed levels while preserving the confidentiality of commercial terms. The initiative is linked to the work of the Ministry of Health's new Negotiation Committee and may also include mechanisms such as risk-sharing agreements for high-cost technologies. [Read more.](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND POPULATION AGING INCREASE PRESSURE ON BRAZIL'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, SAYS PADILHA

Health Minister Alexandre Padilha said climate change should already be considered a public health crisis and, together with Brazil's rapidly aging population, will increase pressure on the Unified Health System (SUS). Speaking at a seminar organized by the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), he said rising temperatures are contributing to the emergence and expansion of diseases and require the healthcare system to improve its preparedness. Padilha also highlighted the growing share of older people in Brazil's population. In 2025, 16.6% of Brazilians were aged 60 or over, while 3.8 million bedridden older adults are registered with SUS. The minister defended specific policies for this population, including the new Home Care

Program for Older People (Padi), aimed at people aged 60 and over who require regular care at home. [Read more.](#)

GROWTH OF HIGH-COMPLEXITY MEDICINES CHALLENGES BRAZIL'S COLD CHAIN

The growth of high-complexity medicines, including biologics, vaccines, cell therapies and oncology products, is increasing pressure on Brazil's pharmaceutical cold chain. These products require strict temperature control throughout storage and transportation to preserve their quality, safety and efficacy. The expansion of this market has also increased the need for investments in infrastructure, technology, monitoring and specialized logistics. According to the article, failures in temperature control can compromise medicines and result in significant financial losses, making the cold chain an increasingly strategic component of the pharmaceutical supply chain. [Read more.](#)

SUS TO INTRODUCE WHATSAPP SYSTEM FOR APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING

Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS) is testing a system that will allow patients to confirm and reschedule medical appointments through WhatsApp. Developed by Integra Saúde Digital, the tool could benefit up to 20.4 million users in states and municipalities where the technology is available. The system is currently in a pilot phase in partner cities and is expected to officially begin operating next quarter. It aims to simplify access to healthcare, reduce missed appointments and cancellations, and improve the use of available slots in the public healthcare network. When a patient cancels or reports that they cannot attend an appointment, the automation will allow the slot to be made available to another patient. The management and regulation of appointments will remain the responsibility of municipal health departments. The program does not have nationwide coverage and is not linked to the Ministry of Health. [Read more.](#)

SUS LAUNCHES COMMAND CENTER FOR INTELLIGENT INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

The Ministry of Health has presented the Command Center for Intelligent Intensive Care Units (ICUs) within Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). Based at the Hospital das Clínicas of the University of São Paulo Medical School (HC-FMUSP), the center monitors in real time the vital signs of patients in six hospitals across the country. The center operates 24 hours a day and is connected to Intelligent ICUs in Manaus, Recife, Brasília, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre. SUS currently has 60 active intelligent beds capable of transmitting real-time data, including heart rate, oxygen levels and blood pressure. The initiative is part of the National Network of Intelligent Hospitals and High-Precision Medicine, which aims to expand digital transformation, connectivity, interoperability, artificial intelligence and real-time monitoring across the public healthcare system. The network is expected to reach 280 intelligent beds in 14 healthcare institutions. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT DISCUSSES EXPANDING FARMÁCIA POPULAR WITH DIAGNOSTIC TESTS AND TELEHEALTH

Health Minister Alexandre Padilha said the federal government is discussing the expansion of services offered through the Farmácia Popular Program to include diagnostic tests and telehealth. The discussions involve pharmacy and diagnostic associations and aim to use the program's existing structure to expand access to healthcare services. According to Padilha, telehealth services could involve nutritionists, nurses and, eventually, physicians, with a focus on monitoring patients with chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and asthma. The proposal would complement care already provided through Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). The expansion is still under discussion and will depend on technical assessments and the needs of each region. [Read more.](#)

LULA SAYS HEALTHCARE SPENDING SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN INVESTMENT

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva reiterated that public spending on healthcare should be considered an investment rather than an expense. The statement was made after a meeting with business leaders, during which the president discussed economic and social policies. Lula

argued that investments in healthcare generate broader benefits for society and the economy, including improved quality of life and greater capacity for development. The statement is part of the government's broader defense of public investment in social policies and the strengthening of Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). [Read more.](#)

CLÁUDIO LOTTENBERG TAKES LEAVE FROM EINSTEIN AFTER BEING NAMED AS FLÁVIO BOLSONARO'S POTENTIAL HEALTH MINISTER

Ophthalmologist Cláudio Lottenberg has taken leave from his position as president of the Deliberative Council of Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein until the end of the electoral period. The decision followed his nomination by presidential candidate Flávio Bolsonaro as his future Health Minister in the event of an electoral victory. According to the hospital, the leave complies with its Code of Ethics, which establishes political neutrality and prohibits the use of the institution's resources for political purposes. Lottenberg has led the Einstein Deliberative Council since 2017 and previously served as the institution's executive president. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW CRITERIA FOR SUS FUNDING TRANSFERS AFTER SUPREME COURT DECISION

The Ministry of Health will create a working group with states and municipalities to discuss the methodology used to distribute federal resources within Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). The initiative follows a Supreme Federal Court (STF) decision that identified a lack of transparency in the criteria used for allocating the funds. The new discussion is expected to consider factors such as population needs, installed healthcare capacity, service delivery, costs and regional differences. The proposal will be developed jointly with state and municipal health authorities and may lead to changes in the criteria for federal SUS funding transfers. [Read more.](#)

SUS REGULATES PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENT FOR ONCOLOGY

The Ministry of Health has completed the regulatory framework for implementing the Pharmaceutical Assistance Component in Oncology (AF-Onco) within Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). The new rules establish criteria for the management, financing, acquisition, distribution and dispensing of oncology medicines, as well as the organization of access to cancer treatments. The framework includes a list of very high-cost oncology medicines subject to centralized procurement, national price negotiations with pharmaceutical companies, mandatory prior authorization for certain treatments and a dedicated system for monitoring the dispensing and administration of oncology medicines. The regulations also establish parameters for dilution centers, allowing the sharing of doses between patients to reduce waste. [Read more.](#)

SENATE EXTENDS INCENTIVES FOR CANCER CARE AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Senate approved the extension until 2031 of tax incentives for donations and sponsorships directed to the National Program for Support for Oncology Care (Pronon) and the National Program for Support for Healthcare for People with Disabilities (Pronas/PCD). The measure will now be sent for presidential sanction. The programs allow individuals and companies to deduct from income tax part of the amounts donated to institutions that provide services and develop projects in oncology care and healthcare for people with disabilities. [Read more.](#)

NEW LAW ESTABLISHES ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK-UPS FOR WOMEN IN SUS

Brazil has enacted a new law establishing the right of women to receive a comprehensive health assessment at least once a year through the Unified Health System (SUS). Law No. 15,493/2026 was signed without vetoes and will enter into force in 180 days. The legislation requires SUS to organize care routines including examinations and periodic follow-up, taking into account factors such as age, socioeconomic conditions, ethnicity, place of residence and disability. The law also provides for public awareness campaigns on physical activity, nutrition, mental health, vaccination and preventive examinations. [Read more.](#)

ANVISA AIMS TO ELIMINATE REGULATORY BACKLOGS BY THE END OF 2026

The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) is working to eliminate its accumulated regulatory backlogs and could end 2026 virtually without pending applications, according to Director-President Leandro Safatle. The agency has recorded productivity gains across several areas, although the review of synthetic medicines remains its most significant challenge. In the first half of 2026, Anvisa reviewed 261 synthetic medicine products, more than three times the 86 analyzed during the same period in 2025. Safatle said some regulatory queues have already been eliminated, including those related to radiopharmaceuticals, in vitro diagnostics, medical devices and Good Manufacturing Practice Certificates. According to the agency's president, faster reviews will not compromise standards for safety, efficacy and quality, which remain central to the regulatory process. [Read more.](#)

ANVISA APPROVES OPTIMIZED REVIEW FOR SYNTHETIC AND SEMISYNTHETIC DRUG REGISTRATIONS

The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) approved a pilot project for the optimized quality review of registration applications for synthetic and semisynthetic medicines. The initiative is part of the agency's broader plan to reduce regulatory backlogs and shorten review times without reducing technical standards. The new process is based on the Structured Quality Summary (REQ), a tool designed to streamline the analysis by facilitating the identification and organization of relevant information. The REQ will support technical decision-making alongside the complete dossier and will not replace existing technical or sanitary requirements. According to Anvisa, the quality assessment stage has been identified as a critical point in the registration process due to the high number of applications, the complexity of dossiers and the large volume of information requiring evaluation. [Read more.](#)

HOUSE APPROVES RULES FOR PERIODIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE ASSESSMENTS IN HOSPITALS

The House of Representatives approved a bill establishing rules for periodic health surveillance assessments in public and private hospitals. Senate Bill 287/24, which originated in the Senate, will now be sent for presidential sanction. The proposal establishes quality standards focused on patient safety, adequate staffing and institutional resources, timely care, patient-centered services, equity and compliance with rules issued by the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) and the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS). Private healthcare providers that fail to comply may face daily fines of R\$ 5,000, which can be increased by up to 100 times if necessary. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH JUDICIALIZATION APPROACHES 2,000 NEW CASES EVERY 24 HOURS IN BRAZIL

Health-related lawsuits in Brazil continue to grow, reaching nearly 2,000 new cases every 24 hours. In 2025, 704,800 new health cases reached the judiciary, almost double the 351,600 registered in 2020. In the first half of 2026 alone, another 352,200 cases were filed. State courts account for 90.7% of the disputes, while a significant share of the pressure comes from supplementary healthcare. Between January and May 2026, 154,900 new lawsuits involved health plans, up 20% from the same period in 2025. Access to medicines and treatments remains at the center of the disputes. In a sample analyzed by the National Council of Justice (CNJ), 69.4% of cases involved these issues, with 50.2% related to technologies not included in the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) coverage list. [Read more.](#)

DAMOUS SAYS HEALTH JUDICIALIZATION IS A SYMPTOM OF ANS REGULATORY FAILURES

Wadih Damous, Director-President of the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS), said the growing judicialization of healthcare in Brazil is a symptom of regulatory failures rather than the cause of the sector's problems. Speaking at a seminar organized by the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Damous acknowledged that the agency has failed to address longstanding regulatory gaps. He cited issues such as reimbursement and cost-sharing in health plans,

arguing that they require a more robust regulatory response. According to Damous, each legal dispute involving health plans represents a failure by the regulatory system. In 2025, Brazil's judiciary received 704,800 new healthcare-related lawsuits, including both public and supplementary healthcare cases. Lawsuits against health plan operators reached 341,763, up 49.5% compared with 2023. [Read more.](#)

COURT ORDERS HEALTH PLAN TO COVER MEDICINE OUTSIDE ANS GUIDELINES

A court in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, ordered a health plan to fully cover Luspatercept (Reblozyl) for a 75-year-old patient with myelodysplastic syndrome and severe anemia. The decision was issued after the treatment available under the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) guidelines failed to produce a clinical response. The health plan had denied coverage because the medicine did not meet the criteria established by ANS Utilization Guideline 158. The judge, however, considered the medical prescription, the lack of another therapeutic alternative in the regulatory list, scientific evidence of the treatment's efficacy and safety, and the medicine's registration with the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa). The court ordered the treatment to be provided within five days and established a R\$ 5,000 fine in case of unjustified non-compliance. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS EXPANDING PROTECTION FOR HEALTH PLAN USERS

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is considering a package of measures aimed at Brazil's health plan market, including rules to make it more difficult for operators to unilaterally cancel contracts and mechanisms to protect beneficiaries against significant increases in monthly premiums. The discussion comes as the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) evaluates regulatory alternatives to preserve the financial balance of health plan operators, including the possibility of a technical review mechanism for exceptional situations involving contract imbalances. The proposal raised concerns about the possibility of additional increases for individual and family plans. The ANS said, however, that no extraordinary adjustment has been authorized. The only adjustment currently in force for individual and family plans is the annual 5.11% increase for contracts with anniversary dates between May 2026 and April 2027. [Read more.](#)

AI CANNOT INDEPENDENTLY DECIDE ON HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE DENIALS, SAYS ANS

Artificial intelligence may play an increasingly important role in Brazil's supplementary healthcare sector, but it should not replace human decision-making in cases that directly affect patients, such as the authorization or denial of medical procedures. The position was expressed by Wadih Damous, Director-President of the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS), during an interview with CNN Brasil. According to Damous, AI should be used to support and improve decision-making processes, but human oversight must remain in place. He said allowing artificial intelligence to independently decide on healthcare coverage affecting patients would be unacceptable. The ANS is still assessing how artificial intelligence should be addressed in the regulation of the supplementary healthcare sector, seeking to balance the technology's potential benefits with safeguards to protect consumers. [Read more.](#)

LIABILITY FOR AI FAILURES IS A REGULATORY CHALLENGE FOR HEALTHCARE, SAYS AFYA VICE PRESIDENT

Defining liability for failures involving artificial intelligence is one of the main regulatory challenges for the healthcare sector, according to Gustavo Meirelles, Vice President of Medical Education at Afya. He defended maintaining physicians at the center of decision-making, even as AI tools become increasingly integrated into healthcare services. Meirelles also highlighted the potential for artificial intelligence to transform healthcare and pointed to opportunities for expanding partnerships between Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS) and the private sector. [Read more.](#)

ALANAC DISCUSSES THE FUTURE OF BRAZIL'S PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

The Association of National Pharmaceutical Laboratories (Alanac) held the third edition of the DIFAN Seminar (Development of the National Pharmaceutical Industry) in Brasília, bringing together representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, healthcare professionals and public authorities. The discussions addressed strategies to strengthen Brazil's pharmaceutical industry, expand innovation and domestic production, reduce external dependence, increase exports and support the sustainability of Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). [Read more.](#)

OFFICIAL LABORATORIES SEEK NEW MARKETS AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Brazil's official pharmaceutical laboratories are discussing new strategies to expand domestic production of medicines and active pharmaceutical ingredients, strengthen technological autonomy and increase international cooperation. The agenda was discussed during the Second Meeting of the Association of Official Pharmaceutical Laboratories of Brazil (ALFOB), held in Curitiba. The discussions took place following the approval of Law No. 15,471/2026, which established the National Health Strategy for the Health Economic-Industrial Complex and created new instruments to support domestic production, innovation and technology transfer. [Read more.](#)

ADVERTISING COUNCIL OPENS INVESTIGATION INTO INFLUENCERS WHO PROMOTED PARAGUAYAN WEIGHT-LOSS PENS

Brazil's National Advertising Self-Regulation Council (Conar) has opened an investigation into Brazilian influencers who published content promoting Paraguayan weight-loss pens that are not authorized for sale in Brazil. The products include Lipoless, Lipoland and Tirzec, which do not have registration with the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa). The publications were made between February and July 2026 following events held in Ciudad del Este by Paraguayan pharmaceutical laboratories. Brazilian law does not prevent influencers from participating in events abroad, but promoting unauthorized medicines to Brazilian consumers may violate health, consumer protection and advertising rules. [Read more.](#)

NOVO NORDISK RELAUNCHES ONLINE PLATFORM FOR OZEMPIC AND WEGOVY SALES

Novo Nordisk has relaunched NovoCare Farmácia, its online platform for the sale of medicines for type 2 diabetes, overweight and obesity, including Ozempic, Wegovy and Rybelsus. The new model expands the platform beyond its initial pilot phase and integrates partner pharmacies into the purchasing process. According to the company, prices on the platform are equivalent to those offered through other online pharmacy channels for registered customers. The service also provides access to NovoDia, a patient support program offering services and benefits. Purchases require registration and submission of a medical prescription. [Read more.](#)

SENATE COMMITTEE CREATES WORKING GROUP TO MONITOR RARE DISEASES

The Senate Committee on Human Rights and Participatory Legislation (CDH) approved the creation of a working group to monitor public policies and issues related to rare diseases in Brazil. The initiative aims to follow discussions involving diagnosis, treatment, access to healthcare and other challenges faced by people living with rare conditions. The committee also approved the creation of a separate working group focused on combating anti-Gypsy discrimination. Both groups were created to monitor the issues and support discussions within the Senate. [Read more.](#)

SPENDING ON CHILDHOOD NEURODEVELOPMENT THERAPIES RISES 257% IN BRAZIL

Spending by health plans on physiotherapy, speech therapy, psychology and occupational therapy for children and adolescents rose from approximately R\$ 431 million in 2019 to R\$ 1.5 billion in 2023, an increase of 257%, according to data from the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS). Over the same period, the share of beneficiaries up to age 15 receiving at least one of these services increased from 5.2% to 9.4%. The increase reflects a higher number of

patients receiving treatment, more procedures per beneficiary and higher average costs. The issue has also been influenced by regulatory changes and court decisions that reinforced coverage without quantitative limits for these therapies. Occupational therapy showed particularly strong growth, with spending rising 548% between 2019 and 2023. [Read more.](#)

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

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[Anvisa discusses advances and challenges of new rules for herbal medicines](#)

[Anvisa approves new medicine for metastatic colorectal cancer](#)

[Anvisa approves generic versions of anesthetic for intubation and gynecological medicine](#)

[New medicine for primary immunoglobulin A nephropathy approved by Anvisa](#)

[Senate committee advances proposal for specific criteria to assess rare disease treatments](#)

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